

Lives On The Edge Single Mothers And Their

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lives on the edge offers a penetrating deeply disturbing look into the other america inhabited by single mothers and their children its powerful and moving portraits force us to confront the poverty destitution and struggle for survival that await single mothers in one

of the richest nations in the world one in five children and one in two single mothers live in destitution today the feminization and infantilization of poverty have made the united states one of the most dangerous democracies for poor mothers and their children to inhabit why then valerie polakow asks is poverty seen as a private affair their problem not ours and how can public policy fail to take responsibility for the consequences of our politics of distribution searching for an answer polakow considers the historical and ideological sources for society s attitudes toward single mothers and their children and shows how our dominant images of normal families and motherhood have shaped our perceptions practices and public policies polakow s account traces the historical legacy of discrimination against the dangerous classes and the undeserving poor a legacy that culminates in the current public hostility towards welfare recipients polakow moves beyond the cold voice of statistics to take us into the daily lives of single mothers and their children the stories of young black teenage mothers of white single mothers of homeless mothers are presented with clarity and quiet power in a detailed look inside the classroom worlds of their children polakow explores what life is like if one is very young and poor and consigned to otherness in the landscape of school school is a place thatmatters it is also a place where children are defined as at risk or at promise polakow s astute analysis of poor children s pedagogy provides a critical challenge to educators written by an educator and committed child advocate lives on the edge draws on social historical feminist and public policy perspectives to develop an informed wide ranging critique of american educational and social policy polakow s recommendations in the areas of social policy and education point to useful cross cultural models as well as successful small scale programs in place in the united states yet polakow constantly reminds us that small facts speak to large issues by providing us with a living sense of the other america she helps us to realize that their america is no other than ours stark penetrating and unflinching this work challenges our cherished myths of justice and democracy

single parents offers an overview of this growing phenomenon the problems faced by single parent families and their impact on society topics include men and women as single parents single mother families and poverty the legal system and single parents gay and lesbian parents moral issues and the effects of growing up in a single parent family the experiences of single parents in other countries are also discussed this volume lists numerous resources among them federal government programs state statutes

concerning child custody and adoption private and public organizations a guide to literature films and videos and information on the internet

parents teachers and testing are believed to be the three important keys to a child s development this authoritative user friendly handbook illustrates how you can draw useful developmental information from each of these sources in order to make effective assessments

explores the personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act of 1996 and its effects socially and economically in west virginia

a political biography of the man responsible for the creation of the americanwelfare state and one of the most influential americans of the 20th century 288 pp

this comprehensive handbook summarizes the state of gender studies by examining the crucial research of the past decade and by encouraging thinking about how the questions central to studying gender have themselves changed the book is an important step towards constructing a new analytical framework approach for the social sciences one that calls into question disciplinary boundaries the contributors illustrate how the use of gender by scholars in various and overlapping fields of study has helped alter concepts and research designs

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